

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Statewide Design and Engineering Services Division

TO: Regional Preconstruction Engineers
Dave Bloom, P.E., Northern
Pat Kemp, P.E., Southeast
Steve Horn, P.E., Central


DATE: October 9, 2001

FILE NO:

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FROM: Michael L. Downing, P.E.
Chief Engineer 

SUBJECT: Bioengineered Bank
Stabilization

Bio-engineered stream bank protection measures are a promising field that we should support but, with caution. I encourage you to employ bio-engineered stream bank protection measures in non-critical locations especially where the habitat benefits are high. Do not use bio-engineered stream bank protection measures at the State's critical infrastructure.

Critical infrastructure includes bridges, guide banks and other river training works, and facilities such as single access roadways or roadways where we are concerned about stream erosion problems. Bridges in particular are vulnerable to river erosion processes and must be well protected.

If you encounter a condition that you believe has low risk and high environmental benefits you may request approval from my office to use bio-engineered stream bank protection at critical infrastructure. In considering the request, I'll need time to consult with the Commissioner and the State Hydraulics Engineer.

Please make sure your staff is informed regarding the Department's policy on the use of bio-engineered bank stabilization.

cc: John Mazzitello, Regional Environmental Coordinator, Northern Region, D&ES
Jerry Ruehle, Regional Environmental Coordinator, Central Region, D&ES
Reuben Yost, Regional Environmental Coordinator, Southeast Region, D&ES
Bill Ballard, State Environmental Coordinator, Design and Construction Standards, D&ES
Gary Hogins, Deputy Chief Engineer, Design and Construction Standards, D&ES